

REMARKS

Applicant has herein amended claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 15, added new claims 30 and 31, and canceled claims 19, 20 and 22.

The Office rejected claim 19 as indefinite. Applicant has herein cancelled claim 19.

Claims 1-3 and 19-25 were rejected as being anticipated by Takenouchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,744,758).

Takenouchi does not disclose that the at least one of the through holes of each of said first to (n-1)-th insulating layers except for the central insulating layer is formed using a laser beam, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, Takenouchi does not disclose forming second interconnecting through holes in a first insulating layer using a laser beam and forming connecting holes in an n-th insulating layer using the laser beam respectively, as recited in claim 3. Accordingly, the present invention as claimed in claims 1 and 3 and their dependent claims 20-25 patentably distinguishes over Takenouchi.

Claim 4 was rejected as being anticipated by Noddin (U.S. Patent No. 6,132,853).

Noddin does not disclose that the external insulating layer has at least one through hole formed using a laser beam, as recited in claim 4. Accordingly, the present invention as claimed in claim 4 distinguishes over Noddin.

Claims 7, 10, 15, and 26-29 were rejected as being anticipated by Lebaschi (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,485).

Lebaschi does not disclose irradiating a laser beam on the multilayer substrate at interconnecting through hole-forming portions to define interconnecting through holes through the insulating layers with bottoms defined by the conductive layers as recited in claim 7. Furthermore, Lebaschi does not disclose an insulating substrate having at least one interconnecting through hole penetrating the insulating substrate and formed using a laser beam as recited in claim 15. Accordingly, the present invention as

claimed in claims 7 and 15 and their dependent claims 10 and 26-29 patentably distinguishes over Lebaschi.

Claim 18 was rejected as being unpatentable over Lebaschi in view of Takenouchi.

Since claim 18 depends from independent claim 15, it is patentable over Lebaschi in view of Takenouchi for all of the reasons set forth above in connection with claim 15.

Respectfully submitted,

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